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(12) Patent:

(11) CA 640991

(54) SURGICAL GLOVE PACKAGE

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ABSTRACT:

CLAIMS: [Show all claims](#)

*** Note: Data on abstracts and claims is shown in the official language in which it was submitted.

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1 This invention relates to a package re-
2 taining surgical gloves therein during a sterilization
3 treatment and maintaining them thereafter in sterilized
4 condition until use.

5 The handling of sterilized surgical gloves
6 presents serious problems to those charged with the
7 important responsibility of handling them during and
8 after sterilization. Sanitary standards prohibit the
9 use of gloves which have become unsterile by contact
10 with people or objects. The present invention satisfies
11 a definite need in providing a surgical glove package
12 which facilitates the handling of surgical gloves dur-
13 ing and after sterilization.

14 The present invention provides a surgical
15 glove package in which the surgical gloves can be sup-
16 plied to the consumer. The surgical gloves packaged
17 therein can be sterilized beforehand by the supplier,
18 or they can be supplied in a clean but unsterile con-
19 dition for sterilization by the consumer. In either
20 case, the gloves are intended to be sterilized while
21 enclosed within the package.

22 In the sterilization treatment, a large
23 number of these packages can be placed in a heated
24 chamber, preferably in racks so that the packages
25 are spaced apart from each other. The package con-
26 taining the sterilized gloves may then be stored until
27 use. The package, when opened to obtain access to the
28 sterile gloves, may be destroyed or, if undamaged, used
29 once again to re-sterilize a pair of gloves packaged
30 therein.

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1 The present invention provides a surgical
2 glove package which will retain the gloves therein
3 in an upright position without folds and creases, so
4 as to afford the sterilizing medium access to all
5 surface areas of the glove, both inside and outside.
6 The present invention also provides a package which
7 is readily opened to permit removal of the gloves
8 from the package in such fashion that the gloves are
9 not contaminated or rendered unsterile by contact
10 with unsterilized surfaces.

11 In the surgical glove package of the present
12 invention, the gloves are retained within a folder which
13 is inserted within an outer envelope. The inside of
14 the folder includes a pair of supports on which the
15 gloves are accommodated and also means overlying the
16 upper tips of the fingers to maintain the fingers in
17 upright position. When the folder is closed, the gloves
18 are retained therein in upright condition with the wrist
19 portions held open by the supports to afford the steril-
20 izing medium access to all surfaces, both interior and
22 exterior, during the sterilization operation. The
23 folder is inserted within the outer envelope in such
24 fashion that the folded edge thereof is at the open end
25 of the envelope, so that when the outer envelope is
26 opened and the inner folder is permitted to fall onto
27 a surface, the inner folder will open face up, pre-
28 venting the gloves from coming into contact with the un-
29 sterilized surface.

1 Figure 1 is an exploded perspective view
2 of the surgical glove package of the present inven-
3 tion;

4 Figure 2 is a face view of the sheet which
5 forms the inner folder in unfolded condition;

6 Figure 3 is a perspective view of the inner
7 folder;

8 Figure 4 is a plan view of the inner folder
9 showing how the gloves are retained therein in upright
10 position; and

11 Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view taken along
12 the line 5-5 of Figure 4, looking in the direction of the
13 arrows.

14 Referring to the drawing, the surgical glove
15 package of the present invention comprises an outer en-
16 velope 10 and a folder 11 which is of the proper shape
17 and size to be inserted within the envelope. If the
18 gloves are to be sterilized by heated steam, both the
19 envelope and folder are made of paper or other suit-
20 able material capable of being penetrated by the steam
21 during the sterilization process. The material should
22 have the stiffness, rigidity and tensile strength nec-
23 essary to withstand handling without tearing or excessive
24 loss in shape.

25 The folder 11, shown in Figure 3, is made
26 initially from a sheet having the general configuration
27 shown in Figure 2. The sheet shown in Figure 2 is
28 folded at the center along the crease line 13 and along

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1 parallel crease lines 14 and 15 at distances equally
2 spaced from the center line 13 on opposite sides
3 thereof. These fold lines divide the sheet into panels
4 16 and 17 hinged together by the center fold line, and
5 flaps 18 and 19 hinged to the outer edges of the panels
6 16 and 17, respectively.

7 The upper edge of the sheet shown in Figure 2
8 is formed with a tab portion 20 which, when folded along
9 a line 21 joining the upper edges of the side flaps 18
10 and 19, provides an upper flap which extends continuously
11 across the upper edges of the panels 16 and 17. Similarly,
12 the lower edge of the sheet is formed with a double-humped
13 tab portion 22 which, when folded along a line 23 joining
14 the lower edges of the side flaps 18 and 19, provides a
15 lower flap which extends continuously across the lower
16 edges of the panels 16 and 17. When folded in the manner
17 illustrated in Figure 3, each of the tapering supports 24
18 forms an upstanding support for the wrist portion of a
19 surgical glove 25. Needless to say, when the tab portions
20 20 and 22 are folded inwardly in the manner shown in
21 Figure 3, their creases along the center line 13 are
22 reversed.

23 The gloves 25 are inserted in the folder 11
24 with the wrist portions thereof turned back, as shown
25 in Figure 4. With the wrist portion turned back, the
26 open end of the glove is placed on the upstanding sup-
27 porting flap 24 in such position as to permit the hand
28 portion of the glove to lie flat against the respective

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1 panel. The upper tips of the fingers are tucked under
2 the upper flap 20 to prevent the fingers from folding
3 back and forming creases. The flaps 18 and 19 are then
4 folded back over the adjacent gloves, and the folder
5 again folded in wallet fashion along the center fold
6 line to bring the flaps 18 and 19 in face-to-face re-
7 lationship. The folder 11 is then inserted within the
8 envelope 10 in the manner shown in Figure 1, with the
9 folded edge at the open end of the envelope.

10 The envelope is closed by folding the flap 26
11 of the envelope along its crease line 27. The flap 26
12 is held closed by the use of a strip of adhesive-coated
13 tape 28, preferably a pressure-sensitive adhesive tape,
14 which will keep the flap 26 closed even when subjected
15 to steam during the sterilization treatment.

16 The gloves may be packaged in the manner de-
17 scribed at the time of sale or prior to sterilization.
18 The package may be used in various types of sterilization
19 treatment. However, it is particularly suited to ster-
20 ilization by steam, that is to say, either wet or dry
21 steam at high temperature. Because of the manner in
22 which the fingers are retained in upright condition
23 without creases or folds, there are no surfaces of the
24 glove which are isolated from the steam or insulated
25 from the heat thereof. The steam readily finds its
26 way between the outer surface of the glove and the folded-
27 back wrist portion thereof. Entry of the steam between
28 these surfaces of the glove is facilitated by the

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1 position of the thumb of the glove therebetween as
2 shown in Figure 4. Access to the inside of the glove,
3 including the fingers, is possible by virtue of the
4 fact that the glove is held open at the wrist by the
5 upstanding support 24 and by the additional fact that
6 the fingers are retained by the upper flap 20 in up-
7 right position.

8 During the sterilization treatment, it is
9 advisable to maintain the packages separated so that
10 the steam has access to both sides of the envelope.
11 Suitable racks or trays may be used for this purpose.
12 After the sterilization treatment, the packages may
13 be stored even for long periods of time without danger
14 that the gloves will become unsterile. When the gloves
15 are to be used, the envelope is opened over a surface
16 and the inner folder 11 slidably removed therefrom.
17 The folder can be opened on a table surface without
18 danger of the gloves coming into contact therewith.
19 The folder 11 can be dislodged from the envelope by
20 shaking the envelope over a table surface, directing
21 the folded edge thereof toward the table surface, so
22 that if the folder opens up in falling onto the table
23 surface, the outer surface will lie against the table
24 surface, protecting the gloves from direct contact there-
25 with. The package can, of course, be reused, provided
26 that it has not been torn or damaged in handling.

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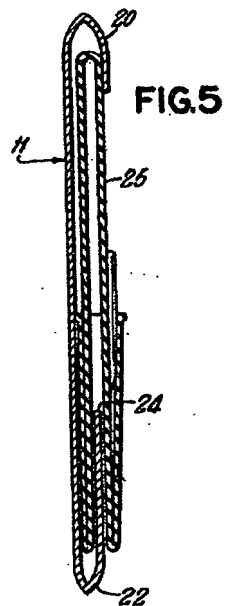
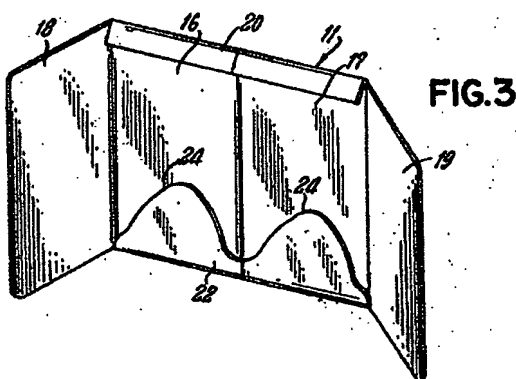
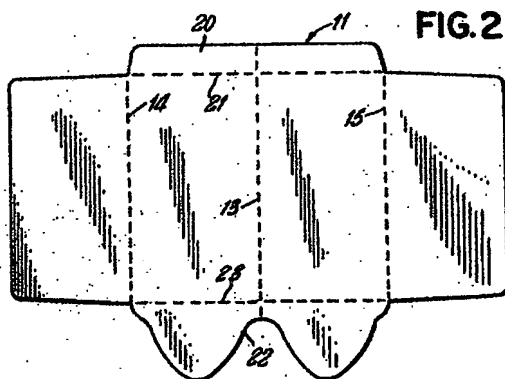
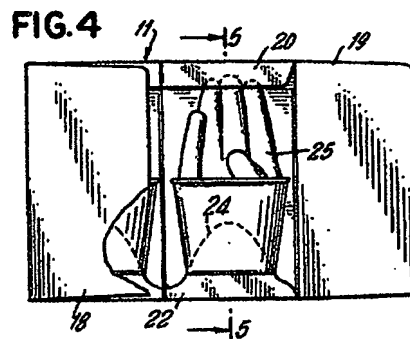
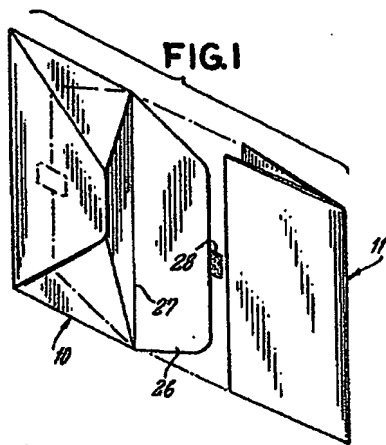
The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A package for retaining surgical gloves during and after sterilization comprising a folder formed from a foldable sheet and a pair of surgical gloves within the folder, said folder comprising two glove-receiving panels separated by a center fold line, a lower flap folded upwardly along a fold line and having an upstanding tapered glove mount overlying each panel, each glove mount receiving a glove thereon with the wrist portion of the glove turned inside-out and extending upwardly toward the fingers of the glove, the tapered mount being inserted within the glove to maintain the inside of the glove open during sterilization, and an upper flap for each panel folded downwardly along a fold line to overlie the finger tips of a glove within the respective panel to maintain the hand portion of the glove open during sterilization, the glove panels being folded together along said center fold line.

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2. A package for retaining surgical gloves during and after sterilization comprising a folder formed from a foldable sheet and a pair of surgical gloves within the folder, said folder comprising two glove-receiving panels separated by a center fold line, a lower flap folded upwardly along a fold line and having an upstanding tapered glove mount overlying each panel, each glove mount receiving a glove thereon with the wrist portion of the glove turned inside-out and extending upwardly toward the fingers of the glove, the tapered mount being inserted within the glove to maintain the inside of the glove open during sterilization, an upper flap for each panel folded downwardly along a fold line to overlie the finger tips of a glove within the respective panel to maintain the hand portion of the glove open during sterilization, and a side flap connected by a fold line to the outer edge of one of the panels to permit the side flap to be folded back over the glove retained in the respective panel, the side flap being interposed between the gloves when the panels are folded together along the center fold line.



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